



Journal of the House

State of Indiana

122nd General Assembly

First Regular Session

Fifth Day

Tuesday Afternoon

January 26, 2021

The invocation was offered by Pastor Matt Barnes of the Public Servant's Prayer.

The House convened at 2:30 p.m. with Speaker Todd M. Huston in the Chair.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Representative Austin.

The Speaker ordered the roll of the House to be called:

Abbott	Karickhoff
Andrade	King
Austin	Klinker
Aylesworth	Lauer
Baird	Ledbetter
Barrett	Lehe
Bartels	Lehman
Bartlett	Leonard
Bauer	Lindauer □
Behning	Lucas
Borders	Lyness
Boy	Manning
Brown, T.	May
Campbell	Mayfield
Carbaugh	McNamara
Cherry	Miller
Clere	Moed
Cook	Morris
Davis	Morrison
Davisson	Moseley
DeVon	Negele
DeLaney	Nisly
Dvorak	Olthoff
Eberhart □	Pack
Ellington	Payne
Engleman	Pfaff
Errington	Pierce
Fleming	Porter
Frye	Prescott
GiaQuinta	Pressel
Goodrich □	Pryor
Gore	Rowray
Gutwein	Saunders
Hamilton	Schaibley
Harris	Shackleford
Hatcher	Slager
Hatfield	Smaltz
Heaton	Smith, V.
Heine	Snow
Hostettler	Soliday
Jackson	Speedy □
Jacob	Steuerwald
Jeter	Sullivan
Johnson	Summers □
Jordan	Teshka
Judy	Thompson

Torr
VanNatter
Vermilion
Wesco

J. Young
Zent
Ziemke
Mr. Speaker

Roll Call 6: 95 present; 5 excused. The Speaker announced a quorum in attendance. [NOTE: □ indicates those who were excused.]

[Journal Clerk's Note: Session was cancelled on January 21, 2021. Pursuant to House Rule 2.3, Speaker Huston with the agreement of the Minority Leader, set the next session day for Tuesday, January 26, 2021 at 2:30 p.m. in the Indiana Government Center Chamber.]

HOUSE MOTION

Mr. Speaker: I move that when we do adjourn, we adjourn until Thursday, January 28, 2021, at 1:30 p.m.

LEHMAN

The motion was adopted by a constitutional majority.

RESOLUTIONS ON FIRST READING

House Resolution 2

Representatives V. Smith, Shackleford, Bartlett, Harris, Hatcher, Jackson, Pack, Porter, Pryor, Summers and Nisly introduced House Resolution 2:

A HOUSE RESOLUTION commemorating Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Whereas, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was one of our nation's truly great leaders;

Whereas, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. changed our nation forever through his leadership, service, and clarity of vision;

Whereas, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. had many dreams: of an America where "justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream"; where neighbors look "beyond the external accidents and discern those inner qualities that make all men human and, therefore, brothers"; and of a time when "this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal.'";

Whereas, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. dreamt of a better society where "the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood";

Whereas, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. believed that liberty, justice, and freedom were the "inalienable rights" to which all men, women, and children are entitled;

Whereas, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was a spiritual man who believed that all people are created equal in the sight of God and in the dignity and self-worth of every individual;

Whereas, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. gave his life defending his beliefs;

Whereas, The visions of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. continue to bring hope and inspiration to people of all nations;

Whereas, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., a recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, is a national hero whose birthday is celebrated as a day of peace, love, and understanding by a grateful nation; and

Whereas, All Americans must continue to gather inspiration from the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and strive to realize his dreams: Therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

SECTION 1. That it is fitting and proper that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. be remembered and recognized by future generations of Americans and that all citizens of Indiana honor Dr. King by living out his teachings as we continue to work toward a day when the dignity and humanity of every person are respected.

SECTION 2. That the Principal Clerk of the House of Representatives shall transmit a copy of this resolution to the family of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The resolution was read a first time and adopted by voice vote.

House Resolution 3

Representatives Hamilton and Cook introduced House Resolution 3:

A HOUSE RESOLUTION to designate 2021 as "Indiana's Year of the Trails".

Whereas, Indiana has a comprehensive network of trails, and connecting trail segments is a powerful tool for economic and community development as well as quality of life that should be actively facilitated;

Whereas, Outdoor trails are used for a variety of activities, including walking, hiking, biking, commuting, rolling, paddling, and horseback riding, and the many miles of trails that exist throughout Indiana have allowed countless individuals to reflect on the splendor of our natural world. Without a doubt, these pathways are not only a source of value for the communities they serve, providing significant economic and environmental benefits, but are also an important feature in helping to improve the quality of life in our society by promoting healthy lifestyles via recreation and active transportation;

Whereas, Trails bring people together, as they not only connect physical locations but also represent the bonds that create communities. By highlighting the numerous trails in our state, we also praise the innumerable people who have helped make them a reality, and their efforts celebrate the beauty of the world around us by providing accessible and functional transportation to all people, regardless of age, background, or ability; and

Whereas, During the pandemic, trails have served even more Hoosiers, providing crucial physical and mental health benefits during extraordinary times, and it is fitting that we salute the individuals who have served as advocates and caretakers of our trails system. Through their hard work and enthusiasm, the citizens of Indiana have demonstrated an unparalleled spirit of cooperation, and we applaud and support all those responsible for the success of these noteworthy trails that serve to repurpose land in valuable ways: Therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

SECTION 1. That we, the members of the House of Representatives of the State of Indiana, in adopting this resolution, designate the year 2021 as "Indiana's Year of the Trails" and encourage all Hoosiers to take advantage of their local and regional trail networks, do their part to further enhance Indiana's trail networks, and pay tribute to everyone who has labored to maintain and enlarge these public amenities.

SECTION 2. That the Clerk of the House of Representatives shall transmit duly authenticated copies of this resolution to the news media of Indiana.

The resolution was read a first time and adopted by voice vote.

House Resolution 4

Representatives McNamara, Steuerwald, Olthoff, Negele, Abbott, Austin, Aylesworth, Baird, Barrett, Bartels, Behning, Borders, T. Brown, Carbaugh, Cherry, Clere, Cook, Davis, Davisson, Eberhart, Ellington, Engleman, Errington, Fleming, Frye, Goodrich, Gutwein, Harris, Heaton, Heine, Hostettler, Jacob, Jeter, Judy, Karickhoff, Ledbetter, Lehman, Leonard, Lindauer, Lucas, Manning, May, Mayfield, Miller, Nisly, Payne, Prescott, Pressel, Rowray, Schaibley, Slager, Smaltz, Snow, Soliday, Speedy, Sullivan, Teshka, Torr, VanNatter, Vermilion, Zent, Ziemke and Hamilton introduced House Resolution 4:

A HOUSE RESOLUTION recognizing January 11 as Human Trafficking Awareness Day.

Whereas, Since 2010, January has been recognized as Human Trafficking Prevention Month by presidential proclamation;

Whereas, January 11 has been observed as Human Trafficking Awareness Day;

Whereas, Human trafficking is an international, multibillion dollar industry that has affected roughly 27 million men, women, and children;

Whereas, Human trafficking places an estimated 300,000 American youths at risk of being exploited by this dangerous, criminal industry;

Whereas, Hoosiers must work together to dismantle trafficking networks and help survivors of human trafficking rebuild their lives;

Whereas, It is important to recognize and address the underlying forces that push people into bondage;

Whereas, It is important that Indiana develop an economy that creates legitimate jobs, build a sense of justice that no child should ever be exploited, and empower our daughters and sons with the same opportunities to pursue their dreams;

Whereas, Slavery has no place in our world, and Hoosiers must come together to help restore the rights of freedom, dignity, and justice to all;

Whereas, There are organizations across Indiana that are working to bring awareness to human trafficking, to prevent human trafficking efforts within communities, and to help victims of human trafficking recover; and

Whereas, Spreading awareness of human trafficking will give Hoosiers the ability to combat it within their own communities and stop their neighbors from being exploited: Therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

SECTION 1. That the Indiana House of Representatives recognizes January 11 as Human Trafficking Awareness Day.

SECTION 2. That the Principal Clerk of the House of Representatives shall transmit copies of this resolution to Representative McNamara for distribution.

The resolution was read a first time and adopted by voice vote.

House Resolution 5

Representative Zent introduced House Resolution 5:

A HOUSE RESOLUTION designating the month of May as "Save Your Tooth Month", celebrating Hoosiers saving their natural teeth and recognizing the role endodontists play in saving natural teeth.

Whereas, There are 65 American Association of Endodontists (AAE) member specialized dentists in Indiana, and 50 of these endodontists are actively practicing and four of them are member endodontic residents, all committed to delivering the best patient outcomes;

Whereas, Endodontists are dental experts who are highly skilled in diagnosing and treating tooth pain and performing root canal treatments and treating dental emergencies, even during the height of COVID-19, reducing the need for patients to seek emergency dental care at emergency rooms and urgent care facilities;

Whereas, Endodontists complete three years of specialized training beyond dental school, with additional training that focuses on diagnosing tooth pain and performing root canal treatments and other procedures relating to the interior of the tooth so that, in many cases, a diseased tooth can be saved with endodontic treatment;

Whereas, Endodontists have incredible precision and hand-eye coordination, making them highly skilled in performing complex treatments; they use the most current and advanced technology to treat dental patients, and no one is better at saving a patient's natural teeth;

Whereas, Endodontists perform many other endodontic treatments and surgeries and address traumatic dental injuries; their goal is to save a patient's natural teeth whenever possible; however, an endodontist will look at all treatment options to determine the best course of action for each individual case;

Whereas, Endodontists limit their practice solely to endodontic treatments, performing an average of 25 root canal treatments a week, and this specialized treatment gives patients the best outcome and promotes faster healing; for this reason, dentists and endodontists often work as partners in care so that the best member of the dental team is handling each appropriate issue with a patient's teeth; and

Whereas, Teeth are a gateway to nutrition, a sign of emotion, and an overall sign of good health; poor oral hygiene can lead to other health problems; regular dentist visits, flossing, brushing thoroughly at least twice a day, and refraining from foods and habits that can cause cavities are important steps for maintaining the overall health of one's gums, teeth, and mouth: Therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

SECTION 1. That the Indiana House of Representatives, in adopting this resolution, declare May 2021 as "Save Your Tooth Month", recognize the endodontists who are dedicated to saving patients' natural teeth, and encourage the citizens of Indiana to practice good oral hygiene to save their natural teeth.

SECTION 2. That the Principal Clerk of the House of Representatives shall transmit copies of this resolution to the office of State Representative Dennis Zent for distribution.

The resolution was read a first time and adopted by voice vote.

House Resolution 6

Representatives Pryor, Bartlett, Pack, Porter, Shackelford and Summers introduced House Resolution 6:

A HOUSE RESOLUTION honoring the many accomplishments of Patricia "Pat" Ann Payne on her 80th birthday.

Whereas, Patricia Ann Payne was born on January 31, 1941, in Indianapolis to Rufus and Susie Myers, celebrating her 80th birthday this year. She is wife to Jerome, mother to Kristie King, and grandmother to Michael Jr. and Myles;

Whereas, She attended Indianapolis Public Schools (IPS) from kindergarten through 12th grade, earned her Bachelor's Degree from Indiana University, Bloomington, received her Master's Degree and Administrative License from IUPUI, and was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Martin University in Indianapolis;

Whereas, Patricia worked in Indianapolis Public Schools from 1962 to the present day, working as a second grade teacher from 1962 to 1987, as director of the IPS Crispus Attucks Center from 1962 to 2014, and now as director of the IPS Racial Equity Office and the Crispus Attucks Museum. She was named IPS Teacher of the Year in 1984 and was a finalist for the 1985 State Teacher of the Year;

Whereas, She has received the following local, state, and national awards: NAACP Education Award, Excellence Award from the Division of Equal Opportunity for the City of Indianapolis, Outstanding Woman of the Year Award from the Center for Leadership and Development, Breakthrough Woman Award from the Coalition of 100 Black Women, the 1994 Black Woman of the Year Award from Asiatic Productions, Indianapolis Education Association's Human Rights Award, Center for Leadership and Development's Distinguished Award in Education, Indiana State Teacher Association's Pacesetters Award, Exemplary Teacher recognition from the Education Commission of the States, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Education Award, Stacey Toran Foundation's 2002 Achievement in Education Award, Diversity Torchbearer Award from the African Community International Center, Diamond Award from the Indiana Chapter of 100 Black Men, YWCA Women of Achievement Phyllis Wheatley Award, Martin Luther King Jr. Human Rights Award for Leadership in Education from the Indianapolis Education Association, Lifetime Achievement Award from the Indianapolis Professional Association, "Putting Your Faith on the Line" Award and "Educational Excellence" Award from the Indiana Black Expo, Living Legend Award from Community Action of Greater Indianapolis, Senator Julia Carson Community Service Award at Crown Hill Cemetery's Black History Celebration of Excellence, Distinguished Alumni Award from Indiana University, Sagamore of the Wabash from the State of Indiana, Trailblazer Award from the Kennedy King Memorial Initiative, Champions of Diversity Award from the Indianapolis Recorder/Minority Business Magazine, IUPUI Spirit of Philanthropy Award, Hoosier Heritage Award, I Am Black History Award from the Indiana Conference Lay Male Chorus, Indiana Women Warriors Award from the Indianapolis Chapter of the Links, Inc., and both the H. Council Trenholm Civil and Human Rights Award and the Carter G. Woodson Award from the National Education Association (NEA);

Whereas, Patricia has been honored and recognized by the following groups: Indiana Civil Rights Commission for Best Practices in the field of Multicultural Education, Muncie, Indiana Chapter of the Black Expo and given a key to the city

by the Mayor's office, Martin Luther King Institute for Social Change, National Council of Negro Women, Madame C.J. Walker Chapter of the Negro Business and Professional Women's Club, Inc., National Council of Negro Women Indianapolis Section, and the Circle City Frontiers International;

Whereas, She has received opportunities to travel to Brazil, Israel, Palestine, Nigeria, and Egypt for study, and she has represented the NEA in Botswana and at the International Conference of Teachers in Canada;

Whereas, Patricia has been appointed to the Flanner House Board of Directors, the Martin University Board of Trustees, Indiana University School of Education Alumni Board, Indianapolis Public Library Board of Trustees, CICF Advisory Council, and Diversity Leadership Academy, and she was appointed Commissioner on the Teacher Education Licensing Study Committee by Governor Evan Bayh in 1989. She was chosen to represent the NEA on the National Teachers Exam Policy Council and the National Council of Accreditation for Teacher Education. She was one of four teachers nominated by the State Department of Education and selected as one of 56 teachers nationwide to participate in a National Teachers Forum sponsored by the Education Commission of the States;

Whereas, She has served as an educational consultant to the National Association of Multicultural Education, the Underground Railroad Freedom Curriculum Project, the Family Advocacy Center, AmeriCorps, the Hoosier Girl Scout Council, Indiana State University, Teach for America, and many others, and she has served as a professional development consultant for the Indiana State Museum, the Veteran's Administration Medical Center, and Central State University Institute of Urban Education in Ohio;

Whereas, Patricia has presented at numerous conferences, programs, school districts, and universities, including: University of Pittsburgh, Central State University, Palm Beach County, Florida, the National Association for Multicultural Education, the National Alliance of Black School Educators, Indiana Commission on Civil Rights, University of Michigan Journal of Race & Law, Butler University's Diversity Initiative Group, Indiana Consortium of State, Local Human Rights Agencies, and Cathedral High School, as well as many others;

Whereas, She has served as chair, co-chair, committee member, board member, or trustee of many organizations around the country, including: Indianapolis Public Library, Madame C.J. Walker Theatre Center, the Indiana Education Committee of the Indianapolis Commission on African American Males, the National Association for Multicultural Education, Indianapolis Museum of Art, African American History Challenge program, Indianapolis Children's Choir Harmony Chorus, the Peace Learning Center, St. Mary of the Woods College, Indianapolis Education Association, Indiana State Teachers Association, Indiana State Teachers Association Instruction and Professional Development Committee, NEA's Black Caucus, NEA Minority Affairs Committee, NEA Civil Rights Committee, and NEA Board of Directors;

Whereas, Patricia has directed programs and activities for the IPS school district, including Racial Equity training since 2015, the 34th Annual Multicultural Festival, the 24th Annual Spirit of Freedom for IPS 5th graders, and the 39th annual televised tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and she served as moderator for the IPS television show Multicultural Points and Perspectives; and

Whereas, She is a certified trainer for the Respecting Ethnic and Cultural Heritage program, certified administrator for the Intercultural Development Inventory, and a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority; Therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

SECTION 1. That the Indiana House of Representatives honors Patricia Anne Payne for her many accomplishments, dedication to education and children, and service to the community.

SECTION 2. That the Indiana House of Representatives wishes her well on her 80th birthday and many more.

SECTION 3. That the Principal Clerk of the House of Representatives shall transmit copies of this resolution to Representative Cherrish Pryor for distribution.

The resolution was read a first time and adopted by voice vote.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Speaker: Your Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred House Bill 1002, has had the same under consideration and begs leave to report the same back to the House with the recommendation that said bill be amended as follows:

Page 3, delete lines 33 through 36, begin a new paragraph and insert:

"Sec. 2. The following definitions apply throughout this chapter:

(1) "Arising (or arises) from a (or the) state disaster emergency" means an injury or harm:

(A) caused by or resulting from an act or omission performed in response to a state disaster emergency declared under IC 10-14-3-12; or

(B) arising from COVID-19 (as defined by IC 34-31-12-2).

(2) "COVID-19" has the meaning set forth in IC 34-12-4-2.

(3) "Health care provider" has the meaning set forth in IC 4-6-14-2.

(4) "Health care services" has the meaning set forth in IC 34-6-2-55(b)."

Page 3, line 37, delete "Sec. 4." and insert "Sec. 3."

Page 3, line 37, delete "section 5" and insert "section 4".

Page 3, line 39, delete "IC 25-1-11" and insert "IC 25-1-9".

Page 3, line 40, delete "during" and insert "arising from".

Page 4, line 1, after "withholding," insert "delay,".

Page 4, line 2, delete "during" and insert "arising from".

Page 4, line 5, delete "during" and insert "arising from".

Page 4, line 12, delete "during" and insert "arising from".

Page 4, line 14, delete "Sec. 5." and insert "Sec. 4."

Page 4, line 14, delete "Section 4" and insert "Except as provided by subsection (b), section 3".

Page 4, line 16, delete "IC 25-1-11" and insert "IC 25-1-9".

Page 4, line 17, delete "negligence or willful misconduct." and insert "negligence, willful or wanton misconduct, or intentional misrepresentation."

Page 4, delete lines 18 through 24, begin a new paragraph and insert:

"(b) The following do not constitute gross negligence, willful or wanton misconduct, or intentional misrepresentation:

(1) Providing services without required personal protective equipment caused by:

(A) a shortage; or

(B) an inability to timely acquire personal protective equipment;

during an event that is declared a disaster emergency under IC 10-14-3-12.

(2) Providing services without access to adequate or reliable testing for COVID-19, even if the COVID-19 testing that was used received emergency use authorization from the federal Food and Drug

Administration.

(3) Using equipment, medicine, or supplies in a manner that is not approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration in good faith in response to COVID-19.

(4) Providing services under a reallocation of staff or resources.

(5) Providing services under a staffing shortage.

(6) Providing services that are outside of an individual's expertise or specialty in good faith in response to COVID-19."

Page 4, line 25, delete "Sec. 6." and insert "Sec. 5."

Page 4, line 26, delete "during" and insert "arising from".

Page 4, line 38, delete "Sec. 7." and insert "Sec. 6."

Page 4, line 38, delete "section 6" and insert "section 5".

Page 4, line 40, delete "IC 25-1-11" and insert "IC 25-1-9".

Page 4, after line 42, begin a new paragraph and insert:

"SECTION 3. IC 34-6-2-10.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE MARCH 1, 2020 (RETROACTIVE)]: Sec. 10.5. "Arising (or arises) from a (or the) state disaster emergency", for purposes of IC 34-7-8 and IC 34-30-13.5, means an injury or harm:

(1) caused by or resulting from an act or omission performed in response to a state disaster emergency declared under IC 10-14-3-12; or

(2) arising from COVID-19 (as defined by IC 34-31-12-2).

SECTION 4. IC 34-6-2-46.4 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE MARCH 1, 2020 (RETROACTIVE)]: Sec. 46.4. "Financial interest", for purposes of IC 34-30-13.5-3, means an ownership or investment interest through equity, debt, or other means. The term includes an ownership or investment interest in an entity that holds, either directly or through a subsidiary, an ownership or investment interest."

Page 5, delete lines 19 through 35, begin a new line block indented and insert:

"(1) any services provided by an individual licensed under:

(A) IC 25-2.5;

(B) IC 25-10;

(C) IC 25-13;

(D) IC 25-14;

(E) IC 25-19;

~~(F)~~ (F) IC 25-22.5;

~~(G)~~ (G) IC 25-23;

~~(H)~~ (H) IC 25-23.5;

~~(I)~~ (I) IC 25-23.6;

~~(J)~~ (J) IC 25-24;

~~(K)~~ (K) IC 25-26;

~~(L)~~ (L) IC 25-27;

~~(M)~~ (M) IC 25-27.5;

~~(N)~~ (N) IC 25-29;

~~(O)~~ (O) IC 25-33;

~~(P)~~ (P) IC 25-34.5; or

~~(Q)~~ (Q) IC 25-35.6;"

Page 6, line 4, strike "IC 16-31-2;" and insert "IC 16-31;"

Page 6, line 6, strike "IC 16-31-2; or" and insert "IC 16-31;"

Page 6, between lines 6 and 7, begin a new line block indented and insert:

"(6) any services provided by certified health care professionals who are registered with the Indiana state department of health, including:

(A) certified nurse aides certified under IC 16-28-1-11;

(B) qualified medication aides certified under IC 16-28-1-11; and

(C) home health aides registered under rules adopted under IC 16-27-1-7;

(7) any services provided by unlicensed health care professionals who have successfully completed any

applicable training required by the Indiana state department of health;

(8) any services provided by health care volunteers who are permitted to practice during an event that is declared a disaster emergency under IC 10-14-3-12;

(9) any services provided by individuals with provisional or temporary licenses who are permitted to practice during an event that is declared a disaster emergency under IC 10-14-3-12; or"

Page 6, line 7, strike "(6)" and insert "(10)".

Page 6, line 9, delete "injury." and insert "injury, including environmental cleaning services."

Page 6, line 13, delete "During" and insert "Arising From".

Page 6, line 18, delete "during" and insert "arising from".

Page 7, line 21, delete "negligence or willful misconduct." and insert "negligence, willful or wanton misconduct, or intentional misrepresentation."

Page 7, between lines 23 and 24, begin a new paragraph and insert:

"Sec. 5. If a claim described in this section is:

(1) a claim for injury or death resulting from medical malpractice; and

(2) not barred by the immunity provided under this chapter;

the claimant is required to comply with all of the provisions of IC 34-18 (medical malpractice act)."

Page 10, line 13, delete "January 1, 2022." and insert "April 1, 2022."

Page 10, line 17, delete "negligence or willful misconduct." and insert "negligence, willful or wanton misconduct, or intentional misrepresentation."

Page 10, line 20, after "IC 34-31-12-4)." insert "If a claim described in this subsection is:

(1) a claim for injury or death resulting from medical malpractice; and

(2) not barred by the immunity provided under this subsection;

the claimant is required to comply with all of the provisions of IC 34-18 (medical malpractice act)."

Page 10, delete lines 21 through 42.

Delete page 11.

Page 12, delete lines 1 through 16.

Page 12, delete lines 34 through 42, begin a new paragraph and insert:

"(b) This subsection applies after February 29, 2020, and before April 1, 2022. Except as provided in section 2 of this chapter, the following apply to the provision or delay of health care services or other services in response to or arising from a disaster emergency under IC 10-14-3-12:

(1) A person providing health care services or emergency medical services, whether in person or through telemedicine services permitted by IC 25-1-9.5, at a facility or other location where health care services or emergency medical services are provided may not be held civilly liable for an act or omission relating to:

(A) the provision or delay of health care services in response to or arising from a state disaster emergency declared under IC 10-14-3-12; and

(B) any of the activities listed in items (i) through (iii), if the activity was materially affected by an event that is declared a disaster emergency under IC 10-14-3-12:

(i) clinical or nonclinical administrative activities, organization, management, planning, preparation, or staffing concerning a health care service;

(ii) the use or nonuse of supplies or equipment in the course of providing health care services; or

(iii) the performance, supervision, or monitoring

of a health care service;
regardless of whether the provision or delay of health care services occurs before or after the declaration of a state disaster emergency.

(2) An employee or agent providing services, including administrative services and emergency medical services, at a facility or other location where health care services or emergency medical services are provided may not be held civilly liable for an act or omission related to the provision of those services in response to or arising from a state disaster emergency declared under IC 10-14-3-12, regardless of whether the provision of services occurs before or after the declaration of a state disaster emergency.

(3) An employer, including an agency that provides or arranges health care services, of a person described in subdivision (1) or (2) may not be held civilly liable for an act or omission relating to:

(A) the provision or delay of health care services or other services provided in response to or arising from a state disaster emergency declared under IC 10-14-3-12; and

(B) any of the activities listed in items (i) through (iii) if the activity was materially affected by an event that is declared a disaster emergency under IC 10-14-3-12:

(i) clinical or nonclinical administrative activities, organization, management, planning, preparation, or staffing concerning a health care service;

(ii) the use or nonuse of supplies or equipment in the course of providing health care services; or

(iii) the performance, supervision, or monitoring of a health care service;

regardless of whether the provision or delay of health care services or other services occurs before or after the declaration of a state disaster emergency.

(c) This subsection applies after February 29, 2020, and before April 1, 2022. A person or an employer of a person described in this chapter may not be held civilly liable, and the action does not constitute gross negligence, willful or wanton misconduct, or intentional misrepresentation under this chapter, for the following:

(1) Providing services without required personal protective equipment caused by:

(A) a shortage; or

(B) an inability to timely acquire personal protective equipment;

in response to or arising from a disaster emergency under IC 10-14-3-12.

(2) Providing services without access to adequate or reliable testing for COVID-19, even if the COVID-19 testing that was used received emergency use authorization from the federal Food and Drug Administration.

(3) Using equipment, medicine, or supplies in a manner that is not approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration in good faith in response to COVID-19.

(4) Providing services under a reallocation of staff or resources.

(5) Providing services under a staffing shortage.

(6) Providing services that are outside of an individual's expertise or specialty in good faith in response to COVID-19.

SECTION 10. IC 34-30-13.5-2, AS ADDED BY P.L.138-2006, SECTION 13, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE MARCH 1, 2020 (RETROACTIVE)]: Sec. 2. A person described in this chapter is not immune from civil liability if the damages resulting from

the act or omission relating to the provision or delay of the health care services or other services resulted from the person's gross negligence, ~~or willful misconduct, or wanton misconduct, or intentional misrepresentation.~~

Page 13, delete lines 1 through 9.

Page 13, line 23, after "a location" insert "used to provide emergency medical services or".

Page 13, line 25, after "services" insert "or emergency medical services".

Page 13, line 25, delete "during" and insert "arising from".

Page 13, line 29, after "provision" insert "or delay".

Page 13, line 30, after "services" insert "or other services".

Page 13, line 30, delete "section 1(b)(1) of".

Page 13, line 32, delete "of" and insert "or delay of health care services or other".

Page 13, line 33, delete "employee or agent" and insert "employer or agency".

Page 13, line 33, delete "section 1(b)(2) of".

Page 13, line 39, after "services" insert "or emergency medical services".

Page 13, line 39, delete "during" and insert "arising from".

Page 14, line 2, delete "during" and insert "arises from".

Page 14, line 11, after "services" insert "or emergency medical services".

Page 14, line 12, delete "during" and insert "arising from".

Page 14, between lines 15 and 16, begin a new paragraph and insert:

"SECTION 12. IC 34-30-13.5-4 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE MARCH 1, 2020 (RETROACTIVE)]: Sec. 4. This section applies after February 29, 2020, and before April 1, 2022. If a claim described in this chapter is:

(1) a claim for injury or death resulting from medical malpractice; and

(2) not barred by the immunity provided under this chapter;

the claimant is required to comply with all of the provisions of IC 34-18 (medical malpractice act)."

Page 14, line 21, delete "January 1, 2022." and insert "April 1, 2022."

Page 14, line 34, delete "performed" and insert "performed, not performed, or delayed".

Page 15, line 26, delete "(2); or" and insert "(2);".

Page 15, line 28, delete "hospital." and insert "hospital; or

(5) an individual licensed as a paramedic, advanced emergency medical technician under IC 16-31, or an individual certified as an emergency medical responder under IC 16-31."

Page 15, delete line 39 and insert "negligence, willful or wanton misconduct, or intentional misrepresentation."

Page 15, delete lines 40 through 42, begin a new paragraph and insert:

"Sec. 8. If a claim described in this chapter is:

(1) a claim for injury or death resulting from medical malpractice; and

(2) not barred by the immunity provided under this chapter;

the claimant is required to comply with all of the provisions of IC 34-18 (medical malpractice act)."

Page 16, delete lines 1 through 18.

Renumber all SECTIONS consecutively.

(Reference is to HB 1002 as introduced.)

and when so amended that said bill do pass.

Committee Vote: yeas 9, nays 3.

TORR, Chair

Report adopted.

COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Speaker: Your Committee on Elections and Apportionment, to which was referred House Bill 1134, has had the same under consideration and begs leave to report the same back to the House with the recommendation that said bill be amended as follows:

Page 1, delete lines 1 through 17, begin a new paragraph and insert:

"SECTION 1. IC 3-8-4-10.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2021]: **Sec. 10.5. (a) This section applies only to a political party whose nominee for secretary of state at the most recent election for that office received at least two percent (2%) but less than ten percent (10%) of the votes cast for secretary of state at that election.**

(b) This section applies only to the nomination by a political party of a candidate for either of the following offices:

(1) United States Senator.

(2) Governor.

(c) To be eligible to be nominated by a political party under this chapter, a candidate must have a petition, requesting that the individual be nominated by the political party for the office stated in the petition, signed by at least four thousand five hundred (4,500) voters of Indiana, including at least five hundred (500) voters from each congressional district. A petition under this section must contain the following:

(1) The signature of each petitioner.

(2) The name of each petitioner legibly printed.

(3) The residence address of each petitioner as set forth on the petitioner's voter registration record.

(d) Except as provided in this subsection, the signature, printed name, and residence address of the petitioner must be made in writing by the petitioner. If a petitioner with a disability is unable to write this information on the petition, the petitioner may authorize an individual to do so on the petitioner's behalf. The individual acting under this subsection shall execute an affidavit of assistance for each such petitioner, in a form prescribed by the election division. The form must set forth the name and address of the individual providing assistance and the date the individual provided the assistance. The form must be submitted with the petition.

(e) This subsection applies to a petition filed during the period:

(1) beginning on the date that a congressional district plan has been adopted under IC 3-3; and

(2) ending on the date that the part of the act or order issued under IC 3-3-2 establishing the previous congressional district plan is repealed or superseded.

The petition must be signed by at least four thousand five hundred (4,500) voters of Indiana, including at least five hundred (500) voters from each congressional district created by the most recent congressional district plan adopted under IC 3-3.

(f) A candidate's petition under this section must be submitted to the county voter registration office during the period beginning on the first date that a declaration of candidacy may be filed under IC 3-8-2-4 in the year in which a primary election will be held for the office and ending at noon ninety-one (91) days before the primary election.

(g) A candidate's petition required by this section must be certified by the county voter registration offices in the same manner as a declaration of candidacy must be certified under IC 3-8-2-9. After the certification of a petition under this subsection, the county voter registration office shall, upon the request of the candidate named in the petition, return the original petition to the candidate for filing with

the secretary of state under subsection (h).

(h) A petition certified under subsection (g) shall be filed with the secretary of state, with the candidate's certificate of nomination under IC 3-8-7-8."

Delete pages 2 through 3.

(Reference is to HB 1134 as introduced.)

and when so amended that said bill do pass.

Committee Vote: yeas 9, nays 4.

WESCO, Chair

Report adopted.

COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Speaker: Your Committee on Public Health, to which was referred House Bill 1225, has had the same under consideration and begs leave to report the same back to the House with the recommendation that said bill do pass.

(Reference is to HB 1225 as introduced.)

Committee Vote: Yeas 13, Nays 0.

BARRETT, Chair

Report adopted.

COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Speaker: Your Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred House Bill 1252, has had the same under consideration and begs leave to report the same back to the House with the recommendation that said bill be amended as follows:

Page 1, line 14, delete "located," and insert "located".

Page 4, line 29, after "majority" insert "in".

Page 15, delete lines 14 through 21, begin a new paragraph and insert:

"(c) Any of the following persons, in decreasing order of priority, may accept an appointment and serve as a tenant's representative under this article:

(1) A person designated by the tenant in a written document delivered to the landlord.

(2) A person designated, in writing, by the tenant in a written lease between the tenant and the landlord.

(3) An attorney in fact named by the tenant in a power of attorney during the tenant's lifetime.

(4) A temporary guardian or guardian of the person of a tenant.

(5) A tenant's heir.

(6) A person selected and appointed by a probate court upon a petition by any interested person under this section.

If a dispute exists between two (2) or more persons claiming to be a tenant's representative, the probate court's decision controls after a hearing held upon notice to the interested persons.

(d) A person who is authorized to serve as a tenant's representative under subsection (c) accepts appointment by:

(1) providing written notice to the tenant's landlord of the tenant representative's acceptance of appointment; and

(2) if the tenant is appointed under subsection (c)(6), complying with the conditions stated in the probate court's order.

(e) The authority of a deceased tenant's heir, a deceased tenant's attorney in fact, a temporary guardian, or a guardian of the person to act under this article terminates when the heir, the guardian, or the landlord knows that:"

Page 15, line 26, after "the" insert "living".

Page 15, line 28, delete "(e)" and insert "(f)".

Page 15, line 34, delete "(f)" and insert "(g)".

Page 15, line 39, delete "(g)" and insert "(h)".

(Reference is to HB 1252 as introduced.)

and when so amended that said bill do pass.

Committee Vote: yeas 9, nays 0.

TORR, Chair

Report adopted.

COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Speaker: Your Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred House Bill 1255, has had the same under consideration and begs leave to report the same back to the House with the recommendation that said bill be amended as follows:

Page 30, line 41, delete "May 15, 2020." and insert "**March 31, 2020.**".

Page 33, line 35, delete "May 15, 2020." and insert "**March 31, 2020.**".

Page 41, line 41, delete "May 15," and insert "**March 31,**".

Page 42, line 30, delete "May 15," and insert "**March 31,**".

Page 43, line 26, delete "May 15," and insert "**March 31,**".

Page 48, line 38, after "is" insert "**not**".

(Reference is to HB 1255 as introduced.)

and when so amended that said bill do pass.

Committee Vote: yeas 9, nays 0.

TORR, Chair

Report adopted.

COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Speaker: Your Committee on Commerce, Small Business and Economic Development, to which was referred House Bill 1261, has had the same under consideration and begs leave to report the same back to the House with the recommendation that said bill do pass.

(Reference is to HB 1261 as introduced.)

Committee Vote: Yeas 11, Nays 1.

MORRIS, Chair

Report adopted.

COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Speaker: Your Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred House Bill 1314, has had the same under consideration and begs leave to report the same back to the House with the recommendation that said bill be amended as follows:

Page 1, line 10, after "status," insert "**disability,**".

Page 2, line 15, after "status," insert "**disability,**".

(Reference is to HB 1314 as introduced.)

and when so amended that said bill do pass.

Committee Vote: yeas 9, nays 0.

TORR, Chair

Report adopted.

COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Speaker: Your Committee on Financial Institutions and Insurance, to which was referred House Bill 1402, has had the same under consideration and begs leave to report the same back to the House with the recommendation that said bill be amended as follows:

Page 3, line 23, after "shall" insert "**ensure uniform data collection and**".

Page 5, line 24, delete "integrity and privacy" and insert "**integrity, security, and privacy**".

Page 6, delete lines 28 through 29, begin a new paragraph and insert:

"(b) For the initial appointment of the twelve (12) members appointed to the advisory board by the governor under section 6(a) of this chapter, six (6) members will serve

for a term of two (2) years and six (6) members will serve for a term of four (4) years. For all subsequent appointments by the governor under section 6(a) of this chapter and all appointments made under section 6(b) of this chapter, members will serve for a term of four (4) years. Members may be reappointed.

(c) Subject to subsection (e), the executive director is a permanent member of the advisory board."

Page 6, line 30, delete "(c)" and insert "**(d)**".

Page 6, line 33, delete "(d)" and insert "**(e)**".

(Reference is to HB 1402 as introduced.)

and when so amended that said bill do pass.

Committee Vote: yeas 12, nays 0.

CARBAUGH, Chair

Report adopted.

COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Speaker: Your Committee on Financial Institutions and Insurance, to which was referred House Bill 1462, has had the same under consideration and begs leave to report the same back to the House with the recommendation that said bill do pass.

(Reference is to HB 1462 as introduced.)

Committee Vote: Yeas 12, Nays 0.

CARBAUGH, Chair

Report adopted.

HOUSE BILLS ON SECOND READING

House Bill 1084

Representative Young called down House Bill 1084 for second reading. The bill was read a second time by title. There being no amendments, the bill was ordered engrossed.

House Bill 1197

Representative McNamara called down House Bill 1197 for second reading. The bill was read a second time by title. There being no amendments, the bill was ordered engrossed.

ENGROSSED HOUSE BILLS ON THIRD READING

Engrossed House Bill 1003

Representative Slager called down Engrossed House Bill 1003 for third reading:

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning education.

The bill was read a third time by sections and placed upon its passage. The question was, Shall the bill pass?

Roll Call 7: yeas 93, nays 2. The bill was declared passed. The question was, Shall the title of the bill remain the title of the act? There being no objection, it was so ordered. The Clerk was directed to inform the Senate of the passage of the bill. Senate sponsor: Senator Raatz.

Engrossed House Bill 1056

Representative Torr called down Engrossed House Bill 1056 for third reading:

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning property.

The bill was read a third time by sections and placed upon its passage. The question was, Shall the bill pass?

Roll Call 8: yeas 95, nays 0. The bill was declared passed. The question was, Shall the title of the bill remain the title of the act? There being no objection, it was so ordered. The Clerk was directed to inform the Senate of the passage of the bill. Senate sponsors: Senators Brown, Koch and Freeman.

HOUSE MOTION

Mr. Speaker: I move that 1493 be withdrawn.

BARTELS

Motion prevailed.

STATE OF THE STATE

[Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Governor delivered his speech from a studio in Indianapolis with no audience present, on January 19, 2021.]

My fellow Hoosiers.

It's an honor to once again discuss with you this evening the state of our state and the work before us to make life better for all Hoosiers.

This annual update will be unlike any other.

For tonight, I stand before you in a studio with nothing in between me and you.

We're not surrounded by all the grandeur inside the State House of Representatives Chamber or before a packed house of legislative leaders and guests who have all contributed so much to the well-being of our great state.

Rather, we are here, and not there, because we are living in a time when practicing "safety first" has never been more important.

So much of our daily lives this past year has been different:

- The way we interact with family and friends.
- The way, the when, the where, and the how we work.
- How we go to school.
- How we enjoy our leisure.
- How we deal with the grip and grief of loneliness and loss, including the 9,000 Hoosiers who have died of COVID-19 over just the last 10 months.
- And how we process our sense that our country itself is not immune from the type of turmoil that afflicts so many other national capitols.

It's impossible to calculate the far reaching ripple effect of the personal and community loss of lives and livelihoods, but it is reason for us all to pause in a moment of silence – in prayer, if so inclined – for each and every one of these beloved souls.

Will you please join me?

Thank you.

Let me also offer our state's profound gratitude to our healthcare professionals who, day-after-day, hour-after-hour, have taken care of those afflicted with this virus, and to our law enforcement officials who put their lives on the line every day to serve, save, and protect our streets, and to our churches, synagogues, and mosques, for spiritual guidance, so that we can carry on with our lives without a far worse disruption.

And yet through it all, Hoosiers have risen to meet these unprecedented challenges, realizing much more work is to be done in this historic moment of opportunity.

Ladies and gentlemen, because of you, the state of our state is resilient and growing.

Our foundation has held strong.

I don't know how many other states in America have a Triple-A credit rating and are expected to finish the year with over \$2 billion in reserves, and that experienced an all-time record year of new job commitments last year during a global pandemic, like Indiana did, but it can't be many.

And, because of the strong position we were in pre-pandemic and the immediate, aggressive, and targeted COVID-19 responses throughout, I was able to include in my two-year state budget proposal that Indiana is now in the position to:

- Restore many agency budgets.
- Increase K-12 funding by \$377 million.
- Restore higher education funding by \$103 million and increase it in each of the next two years.
- Make new investments in our state parks and in our Indiana State Fairgrounds that serves all 92 counties.
- Build a new state police lab and Indiana National Guard Armory along with improvements to two others.
- And, we're in a position to pay down \$400 million on our biggest teacher pension debt, that in turn gives us more budget flexibility.
- Same is true for paying off the outstanding bonds on I-69 and mortgages on three state hospitals.

Ladies and gentlemen, coming off 2020, I'm convinced 2021 can be the best ever. So, the central question before us all is, how can we seize this day?

Thankfully, in Indiana, our capabilities will be aided by our momentum for sure, but we must not slow down.

In fact, we must accelerate, and "go-go-go!"

That starts with keeping our focus on the health and wealth of our people, no matter what phase of life or pathway they are on.

I'm so proud of our state department of health and the way they and our local partners have rolled out the "Our Shot Hoosiers" vaccination plan.

We've already scheduled or administered nearly 120,000 vaccinations to our 80 year and older population and over 215,000 Hoosiers in the 70 to 79 age group.

Oscar Wilde once said, "With age comes wisdom, but sometimes age comes alone." Once again, Hoosier seniors are showing the smart onward and upward way to help, in part because they are tired of being alone.

In addition, we've scheduled over 250,000 healthcare and frontline workers.

And when you're eligible for your vaccination appointment, it's as easy as calling 2-1-1 or logging on to ourshot.IN.gov, just like more than 600,000 of your neighbors already have.

We know that older age itself puts one in the most at-risk category of dying and being hospitalized from COVID-19, and our seniors are getting vaccinated, and that's not only the key to getting their lives back, but ultimately our state's full physical and fiscal recovery as well.

Speaking of our elders, we're also working to ensure they can choose to age in an environment that best suits them, be it at home or in the comforts of a quality long-term-care facility.

We know some 75% of people over 50 prefer to age in their own homes, yet only 45% of Hoosiers who qualify for Medicaid do and must navigate a complex system of care to do so.

Now is the time to put this effort in place, including a managed care system similar to the ones 25 other states are using to integrate care across the entire spectrum to make it easier for

families to navigate and drive outcomes in a transparent and accountable way.

And for our eligible Hoosiers, we're fortunate that our Healthy Indiana Plan recently received a 10-year federal waiver to cover the 600,000 Hoosiers who are active participants in improving their health outcomes.

I'm also so proud of the dramatic progress we've made in our state infant mortality rate.

Last January, we launched our "My-Healthy-Baby" Program that connects pregnant women with personalized guidance and support during pregnancy and after the baby's birth.

We focused on our highest risk areas with a goal to serve 20 counties across our state by the end of last year. We surpassed that goal and are seeing encouraging, continuing results.

Indiana's infant mortality rate has now declined for three years in a row and stands at the lowest it's ever been in recorded state history, dating back to 1900.

It's working, and we need to do more of it.

That's why we'll expand to 25 more counties this year, and by 2023 we'll make the program available to every Hoosier mom insured by Medicaid.

I'm also pleased to report that since 2017:

- The total number of Department of Child Services cases has decreased by over 30%.
- The rate of children entering care has decreased by nearly 34%.
- And turnover at the agency has decreased by 30%.

I was so heartened to see that last year, Indiana was recognized as being the No. 1 state in the nation for increased adoptions from foster care.

Now, we all know, getting off to a great start in life in large part depends on your home and your education.

That's why I was so insistent to protect 100% of K-12 funding during the current school year, even though we had to slash other important state agency budgets to do so.

We know our parents, students, teachers, principals, and superintendents are facing so many new challenges in the way we instruct.

Sick days have become replaced with words like "quarantined, virtual and hybrid."

To me, again, this shows our resilience and perseverance.

But we all know there is learning loss to make up, and we will, because we must.

That means some temporary changes may turn into permanent options and choices for parents.

Parents not only deserve to have options about where they send their child to be educated – after-all, they pay for it – but at the same time, those options shouldn't come at the expense of the public school system, which educates 90% of Hoosier children.

In fact, in my budget, I've already mentioned the 377 million new dollars proposed to increase school budgets.

Plus, schools also are expected to receive hundreds of millions of dollars in additional pandemic federal aid.

And, the Teacher Compensation Commission Report identified 37 different state and local ideas to reduce costs and increase revenues for our public schools, and we should examine them

closely to put more funds into teachers' pockets.

When, not "if" – when we do this, we will be one of the best in the Midwest for teacher pay, and we'll be better able to attract and retain teacher talent, including attracting more minority candidates.

Equally important, we must also continue to drive progress toward preparing our students and our workforce for the career opportunities that are there waiting to be filled right now.

If you're wondering where these jobs are, all 110,000 currently unfilled jobs in Indiana can be found at indianacareerconnect.com. Again, that's indianacareerconnect.com.

I checked myself this morning, and it's an easy process to find what jobs are near you.

And to broaden your options and choice in careers, we'll continue our emphasis on helping all Hoosiers – whether you're 15 or 50 – obtain the post-secondary educations that are so needed to be ready to step into today's job market. Our colleges and universities are key to our future success of being a state of lifelong learners.

The "Workforce Ready" and "Employer Grant" Programs we put in place are making a huge difference for Hoosiers, moving more of them into higher-paying jobs and increasing the number of people achieving a post-secondary education.

We've strategically put an emphasis on increasing minority participation in these programs, and we're seeing positive results. Lives are being transformed.

It's working, and we need to do more of it.

In 2020, we devoted some \$75 million from the CARES Act into our workforce development programs.

That's on top of the \$40 million targeted to the programs in our state budget, and it's paying off.

Since we started the Workforce Ready Grant in 2017, more than 40,000 Hoosiers have enrolled and more than 20,000 of them have earned some kind of credit.

Those who did earned a median wage gain of \$6,800.

And since 2017, more than 26,000 Hoosiers have been trained at over 1,800 participating employers around the state to take part in our "Employer Training Grant Program," with an average wage gain of nearly \$6,000 annually.

These programs are going a long way to helping us as a state reach our goal of at least 60% of Hoosiers with a quality credential by 2025, becoming known as the state in the Midwest for a skilled-up and ready workforce to grow and go, when employers are looking to do the same.

The other thing we need to own the future is a 21st Century infrastructure platform.

I made infrastructure a priority four years ago because of the need to have strong connections with each other and the world.

Whether via concrete or cable, we know these connections translate into greater opportunities for our citizens and our businesses in every Hoosier town, big or small.

So, I was delighted when CNBC ranked Indiana the best state infrastructure in the nation, but we must not rest on our laurels.

That means we'll complete I-69, the longest new interstate project in the country, from Evansville to Indy, three years ahead of schedule and paid for, and we'll move toward the

construction of a new I-69 bridge over the Ohio River, as well as pursue plans for future upgrades to US 30 and 31 up north, as an example.

And, let me just say, Indiana's roads are safer than ever.

Our new hands-free law led to a 12% reduction in collisions in 2020 compared to 2019. That's 422 fewer collisions, which means fewer lives lost, fewer injuries, and fewer expenses for Hoosiers.

But Indiana's not only the Crossroads of America. We're also the Cross Rails of America.

We're steaming ahead with two of our country's biggest public transit rail projects, with well over a billion dollars invested up in Northwest Indiana on the West Lake Corridor Expansion & double tracking the South Shore Line Rail projects.

And from old abandoned trails converted into new hiking and biking trails, we're well on our way to building one of the most trail-friendly states in America, which is the kind of amenity that keeps people coming to explore Indiana.

That's why we're re-starting our \$90 million state investment in community trails in every corner of the state to move us toward an even more interconnected system.

The timing is perfect, as 2020 saw more than two million additional visits to our state parks.

Moreover, Indiana has more than four times the timberland acreage than we did 100 years ago, and we're adding to that by planting one million new trees – natural scrubbers – at or near our parks over the next five years.

As more people blaze a trail to Indiana, we also need a comprehensive overview of our state's housing supply and needs on a county-by-county basis.

Lieutenant Governor Crouch and our state housing agency will develop and maintain an interactive, online database to ensure that real-time, consistent information about Indiana's housing and its market is available.

It will be used by developers and builders, employers, local and state government officials, and service providers who serve specific populations to help determine where the needs and gaps exist and how we can then address them.

One thing we all know the pandemic has made clear: Broadband connectivity is an essential tool for students.

We've distributed \$61 million to K-12 schools and higher education institutions to improve remote learning during the pandemic.

But connectivity is just as essential for workers, entrepreneurs, and farmers.

Our Next Level Broadband program to date will provide access to more than 21,000 homes and businesses, including health clinics, fire departments and police stations.

The additional \$100 million I'm requesting will enable us to continue making progress, bringing improved speed to all corners of our state for all Hoosiers.

Along with a skilled workforce and connectivity, businesses crave an ecosystem that provides consistency, stability, and predictability.

That's why they're so appreciative of our low taxes, common-sense regulations, and how Indiana's become a beacon of certainty.

Over the past four years, we've attracted over 120,000 new job commitments, with more than \$28 billion of capital investment.

In 2020 alone – despite the pandemic – we attracted over 31,000 new job commitments with average pay of more than \$28 an hour.

These 2020 numbers represent an all-time record for new job commitments and the second-highest annual record for average wages since the IEDC was first established.

And these businesses cross every sector and position us not just for today, but also for tomorrow.

Wayne Gretzky, who began his professional hockey career with the Indianapolis Racers, said a champion needs to "skate to where the puck is going to be – not where it has been," and that's what we're doing to build Indiana for today and tomorrow.

We rank third in the nation in the concentration of the industries of the future, including life sciences, aerospace, healthcare, defense, ag-bioscience, cyber, orthopedics, and advanced manufacturing, according to a study by the Brookings Institute.

And as I've already mentioned, there's so much more to our story than just being a great place for business.

We also offer a great quality of life and place.

That's why, over the past four years, as citizens have been fleeing states like Illinois, New York, and California, they've been flocking to states like Indiana.

Since 2017, more than 125,000 new residents have come to call Indiana home, and our Hoosier hospitality mat is out to attract more.

Through our INVETS initiative, we're deploying creative ways to recruit veterans and service members who are concluding their military service to enroll in Indiana training opportunities and become public safety officers and first responders throughout our state.

Toward this end, I frequently talk about our collective goal to make Indiana a great place to live, work, play, study, and stay.

Tonight, I'm pleased to tell you that should our positive financial position continue through the end of this fiscal year, we will begin to invest new dollars into a new Next Level Regional Recovery program.

The IEDC will work with regions that collaborate to develop strategies designed to improve quality of place, advance industry sector development, and grow workforce development initiatives among regions, educators, employers, and our state's workforce.

We are just at the beginning of developing this initiative and will work with members of the General Assembly and our mayors, our county elected officials, economic development officials, and other stakeholders, so we're ready to rock and roll when we have the green light.

We're also committed to retaining the workforce we already have, which means protecting the health of future mothers on the job.

Women make up over half of Indiana's workforce and should expect reasonable accommodations at their workplace, which often comes at little or no cost to an employer.

This is why I've come back to the legislature again to ask them to make Indiana the 31st state to pass a pregnancy accommodations bill.

Many employers already do this on their own.

So, let's get this done for the well-being and security of Indiana's current and future working mothers.

Finally, just as we expect options and choices in our personal lives, state government itself, must be a leader on this front, as well.

With an eye to where we want to be in the next 40 years – not just the next four – we'll continue to take steps that modernize the ways your state government becomes more effective and efficient – more touch-less, 24-7, and virtual so that you can interact with it when and where you want.

That also means we'll be more transparent and continue to improve state services.

We'll get our state police officers outfitted with body cameras.

We'll get our diversity data dashboard up and running, as well as completing and sharing the outside review of our state's law enforcement academy and agencies.

We'll get our state's first-ever Cabinet-level Chief Equity, Inclusion, and Opportunity Officer to improve and report on diversity outcomes across state government.

We'll usher in more telehealth capabilities so we can make permanent many services that people have been receiving from home during the pandemic. Not surprising, many of them are for mental health issues.

We'll seek to expand our manufacturing readiness grants to enable companies to continue modernizing their operations and keep our status as the No. 1 manufacturing state in the nation, per capita.

We'll provide our businesses and schools with COVID liability protections, so they don't have to live and work in fear of frivolous lawsuits.

And for all the sectors that are surging like RV and boat production and single-family home building permits, we know COVID-19 has devastated other parts of our economy and people.

We've experienced what's called a "K-shaped" recovery – meaning while many Hoosiers have continued to do well during the pandemic, others have been hit hard.

Our restaurants, airlines, hotels, and leisure industries – and many Hoosiers who work in them – have taken it on the chin.

That's why our Indiana Economic Development Corporation will continue to build and allocate targeted grant recovery resources so these businesses can build bridges to the other side of these tough times.

Ladies and gentlemen, I began tonight by saying this has been a year unlike any other.

The pandemic has pulled forward many trends that were already well underway, and this plays to Indiana's strengths.

Our decisions, our discipline now enable us to do things that many other states won't be able to do for years to come.

We're lucky to have been chosen to lead at this moment, and I will say it once again.

For Indiana, the future is now, and the world continues to hear Indiana's engines roar.

That's why I'm more excited than ever to work together to build a state of opportunity for all Hoosiers.

Thank you, and may God continue to bless us and our great state.

OTHER BUSINESS ON THE SPEAKER'S TABLE

HOUSE MOTION

Mr. Speaker: I move that House Rule 105.1 be suspended for the purpose of adding more than three coauthors and that Representatives Austin, Abbott, Andrade, Aylesworth, Baird, Behning, Barrett, Bartels, Bartlett, M. Bauer, Boy, T. Brown, Campbell, Carbaugh, Cherry, Clere, Cook, Davis, Davisson, DeLaney, Dvorak, Ellington, Engleman, Errington, Fleming, Frye, Gore, GiaQuinta, Gutwein, Hamilton, Harris, Hatcher, Hatfield, Heine, Hostettler, Huston, Johnson, Jordan, Judy, Karickhoff, King, Lauer, Ledbetter, Lehman, Leonard, Lucas, Manning, May, Mayfield, McNamara, Miller, Moed, Morrison, Moseley, Negele, Olthoff, Pack, Payne, Pfaff, Pierce, Pressel, Pryor, Shackelford, Schaibley, Soliday, Snow, Smaltz, V. Smith, Sullivan, Steuerwald, Thompson, Torr, VanNatter, Wesco, Young, Zent, Vermilion, Ziemke, Klinker, Jackson, Porter, Prescott, Jeter and Heaton be added as coauthors of House Bill 1003.

SLAGER

The motion, having been seconded by a constitutional majority and carried by a two-thirds vote of the members, prevailed.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

Mr. Speaker: I am directed by the Senate to inform the House that the Senate has passed Engrossed Senate Bills 47, 53, 77, 80, 97, 98, 99, 122, 129, 134, 137 and 227 and the same are herewith transmitted to the House for further action.

JENNIFER L. MERTZ

Principal Secretary of the Senate

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

Mr. Speaker: I am directed by the Senate to inform the House that the Senate has passed House Concurrent Resolution 5 and the same is herewith returned to the House.

JENNIFER L. MERTZ

Principal Secretary of the Senate

Pursuant to House Rule 60, committee meetings were announced.

On the motion of Representative Bartels, the House adjourned at 3:01 p.m., this twenty-sixth day of January, 2021, until Thursday, January 28, 2021, at 2:30 p.m.

TODD M. HUSTON

Speaker of the House of Representatives

M. CAROLINE SPOTTS

Principal Clerk of the House of Representatives